

# NTHMP Coordinating Committee Meeting

May 19, 2020

4:00pm EDT

1. Welcome and call meeting to order: NTHMP Administrator Ian Sears  
The NTHMP Administrator called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm EDT

2. Roll Call:

## Alaska

Mr. James Benzschawel, Alaska Division of Emergency Management, Anchorage, AK  
Mr. Ytamar Rodriguez, Alaska Division of Emergency Management, Anchorage, AK  
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK

## American Samoa

Mr. Meauta Mageo, American Samoa Dept of Homeland Security, Pago Pago, AS  
Ms. Elinor Lutu-McMoore<sup>1</sup>, American Samoa WSO, Pago Pago, American Samoa

## California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services, San Francisco, CA  
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey, Sacramento, CA

## Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

No representatives

## East Coast States

Dr. Jim Kirby, University of Delaware, Newark, DE  
Dr. Stephen Grilli, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

## Guam

No representatives

## Gulf Coast States

Mr. Brad Baker, Santa Rosa County Florida EMA, Milton, FL  
Dr. Juan Horrillo, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Galveston, TX

## Hawaii

Dr. Kwok Fai Cheung, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

## Oregon

Dr. Jonathan Allan, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Portland, OR  
Dr. Althea Rizzo, Oregon Emergency Management Agency, Salem, OR

## Puerto Rico

Wildaomaris Gonzalez, Puerto Rico Emergency Management, San Juan, PR  
Dr. Victor Huerfano, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, Mayaguez, PR

## U.S. Virgin Islands

Roy Watlington, Scientist Emeritus, St. Thomas, VI

## Washington

Ms. Corina Allen, Washington Geological Survey, Olympia, WA

## NOAA

Dr. Grant Cooper, NWS Western Region Director, Salt Lake City, UT  
Mr. Mike Angove<sup>5</sup>, Tsunami Program, NOAA/NWS Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD  
Ms. Marie Eblé<sup>1</sup>, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Lab, Seattle, WA  
Mr. Ian Sears<sup>5</sup>, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD  
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky<sup>4</sup>, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD  
Ms. Christa von Hillebrandt, NOAA/NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Pgm, Mayagüez, PR  
Dr. Diego Arcas, NOAA PMEL, Seattle, WA  
Dr. Laura Kong, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI  
Dr. Chip McCreery, PTWC Director, Honolulu, HI  
Dr. James Gridley, NTWC Director, Palmer, AK  
Ms. Kelly Stroker, NCEI, Boulder, CO

## FEMA

Mr. Mike Mahoney, FEMA Headquarters, Washington, DC  
Ms. Amanda Siok, FEMA Region X, Lynnwood, WA  
Ms. Tamra Biasco<sup>1</sup>, FEMA Region X, Lynnwood, WA

34 present, 10 state votes (min 7); 7 Fed votes (min 4). Quorum requirement met.

- <sup>1</sup> Coord. Comm member, NOAA employee, non-voting    <sup>2</sup> Guest, one-time, non-voting  
<sup>3</sup> Alternate for primary CC member (guest)                      <sup>4</sup> Regular guest, non-voting status  
<sup>5</sup> Ex-officio, non-voting member

3. Minutes of Coordinating Committee meeting of March 17, 2020.

The NTHMP Chair called for approval of the minutes of the March 31, 2020 Coordinating Committee meeting. With no dissention, the minutes were approved by acclamation.

4. Introduction on new PR Coordinating Committee representatives NTHMP Administrator  
PR has two new representatives.

Jose Burgos – Jose R Burgos was appointed as the new Commissioner of the Puerto Rico Emergency Management Bureau back in February of this year.

Wildaomaris Gonzalez - Special Assistant of the Commissioner of NMEAD and he designated me as the Tsunami Program Manager (including the management of the TsunamiReady Program and Earthquake Education Program (for the moment).

Alaska: Dan Belanger resigned his position with the Alaska Division of Emergency Management. James Benzschawel is taking Dan’s place. Will be working the grant applications.

5. [DISCUSSION] FY20 grant status: NTHMP Administrator

Individual state/territory feedback to go by tomorrow from NTHMP Administrator.

One change this year is if we didn’t fully fund the request, that each partner update their required documentation to reflect the changes and send it to Lewis and NTHMP Administrator.

Happy to discuss what was not recommended prior to final submissions.

6. [DISCUSSION] NTHMP summer / winter meetings

We want to hear from the CC regarding a replacement for the summer meeting.

Is there value attempting to hold a virtual meeting?

Some options:

- We could hold bi-weekly (or some agreed-upon frequency) seminars. The intended audience would be minimally the Tsunami Warning Centers and the NTHMP. Presenters will include NTWC personnel, NTHMP participants, invited guests, etc. The newly reinvigorated Warning Coordination Subcommittee would lead the way with help from the NTHMP administrator in organizing and running the seminars.
- Hold a number of half-day meetings to go over NTHMP business.
- Continue only with bi-monthly CC and subcommittee meetings.

I'll open the floor to other suggestions.

Winter meetings: currently, the status of an in-person winter meeting is unknown. We will explore our options in the coming weeks and present options if we have any. We recognize these meetings take a large amount of preparation time and we need to start the planning process soon.

Jon - More info on seminars? James G.: Possibly do training virtually, to include both centers. Would be a good way to exchange information between the TWCs and NTHMP partners. Facilitation would be handled by Ian and NTWC warning coordinator. Grant: Could be in lieu of summer meeting, or otherwise.

Jon - at least one day where NTHMP business could be discussed.

Dmitry - agrees with Jon.

Corrina - supportive of bi-weekly. Concern is for island and territory partners due to time zones.

James - shift meetings to accommodate. Chip: Might be a good overlap with WCS activities.

Any disagreement? Dmitry: Should not go overboard with virtual meetings.

Ian will work with WCS to determine a schedule and the potential meeting contents.

Volunteers for NTHMP business - Dave Snider / Rick Wilson / Jon Allan / Kevin Miller

Kevin: still holding contract with Sacramento hotel, but may be able to extend for several months. Grant: Not planning on any in-person meetings for this year.

7. [VOTE] Warning Coordination Subcommittee: NTHMP Administrator

Dr. James Gridley, Director NTWC, is designating Dave Snider to serve as co-chair from NTWC. Dave Snider is the new Tsunami Warning Coordinator at NTWC.

The NTHMP Chair called for approval Dave Snider's designation to serve as Co-Chair for the WCS. With no dissention, the minutes were approved by acclamation.

8. [Discussion] NTHMP Gap Analysis Task Group

Complete - and Jon to send to NTHMP Administrator and then to send out to the larger audience.

9. MES readout

[See MES meeting notes](#)

10. MMS readout

[See MMS meeting notes](#)

11. WCS [call for nomination]

Ian asked WCS for a recommendation, none provided yet.

12. [DISCUSSION] The CC agreed to delay discussions/elections for subcommittee, Island Caucus, and Work Group leadership until the Annual Meeting. This is just a reminder on what to plan for regarding leadership transitions that will occur in the summer.

We will work this item during the virtual planning of NTHMP virtual meetings.

13. Old Business

14. New Business

*Tsunami Ready - The National StormReady and TsunamiReady Programs will suspend the expiration of any StormReady and TsunamiReady Communities/Supporters for the duration of the pandemic and an appropriate time thereafter.*

If able to renew, it should be followed through, but if not there will not be expirations issued.

Christa - international community we have come up with guidelines addressing COVID at local and state level. Mike: Came down through NWS HQ. It was decided that call to action statements should not be in products for now.

15. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:01pm EDT